

## § 842.52

(2) Apportion damages against the United States in the same manner as they are apportioned in suits against private persons if local law applies comparative negligence.

(3) Do not deduct proceeds from private insurance policies except to the extent allowed by local law. However, proceeds are deducted if the policy was paid for by the United States.

(4) Deduct compensation and benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs, or monetary value received from any U.S. Government associated source from the damages which may be awarded. Deduct sick and annual leave payments if local law allows.

(5) Do not approve:

(i) Punitive damages.

(ii) Cost of medical or hospital services furnished at U.S. expense.

(iii) Cost of burial expenses paid by the United States.

(c) *Settlement by insurer or joint tortfeasor.* When settlement is made by an insurer or joint tort-feasor and an additional award is warranted, an award may be made if both of the following are present:

(1) The United States is not protected by the release executed by the claimant.

(2) The total amount received from such source is first deducted.

## § 842.52 Appeal of final denials.

(a) A claimant may appeal the final denial of the claim. The claimant sends the request, in writing, to the settlement authority within a reasonable time following the final denial. Sixty days is considered a reasonable time, but the settlement authority may waive the time limit for good cause.

(b) Upon receipt of the appeal, the original settlement authority reviews the appeal.

(c) Where the settlement authority does not reach a final agreement on an appealed claim, he or she sends the entire claim file to the next higher settlement authority, who is the appellate authority for that claim.

(d) The decision of the appellate authority is the final administrative action on the claim.

## 32 CFR Ch. VII (7-1-09 Edition)

## § 842.53 Right of subrogation, indemnity, and contribution.

The Air Force becomes subrogated to the rights of the claimant upon settling a claim. The Air Force has the rights of contribution and indemnity permitted by the law of the situs, or under contract. Do not seek contribution or indemnity from US military personnel or civilian employees whose conduct gave rise to government liability.

## § 842.54 Attorney fees.

In the settlement of any claim pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2733 and this subpart, attorney fees will not exceed 20 percent of any award provided that when a claim involves payment of an award over \$1,000,000, attorney fees on that part of the award exceeding \$1,000,000 may be determined by the Secretary of the Air Force. For the purposes of this paragraph, an award is deemed to be the cost to the United States of any trust or structured settlement, and not its future value.

## Subpart G—Foreign Claims (10 U.S.C. 2734)

## § 842.55 Scope of this subpart.

This subpart tells how to settle and pay claims against the United States presented by inhabitants of foreign countries for property damage, personal injury, or death caused by military and civilian members of the US Armed Forces in foreign countries.

## § 842.56 Definitions.

(a) *Foreign country.* A national state other than the United States, including any place under jurisdiction of the United States in a foreign country.

(b) *Inhabitant of a foreign country.* A person, corporation, or other business association whose usual place of abode is in a foreign country. The term “inhabitant” has a broader meaning than such terms as “citizen” or “national”, but does not include persons who are merely temporarily present in a foreign country. It does not require foreign citizenship or domicile.

(c) *Appointing authority.* An Air Force official authorized to appoint members to foreign claims commissions (FCC).